

October 6, 2020

**HALLOWEEN 2020 – A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ANNETTE IAFALLO
AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BRIAN LAKSO**



Based on information and guidance received from state and county health departments, at this time the City of Lackawanna IS planning to proceed with Halloween / Trick-or-Treat night on Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 5:00pm-8:00pm.

This applies to children/families/friends trick-or-treating in their own or other known neighborhoods. Due to Covid-19 health department protocols restricting large gatherings of any kind, NO formal Halloween programs will be run by the City of Lackawanna this year.

While the annual Halloween trick-or-treat tradition has been a highly anticipated event in Lackawanna for decades, in this Covid 19 pandemic year some may feel it is necessary to rethink those traditional Halloween plans.

According to CDC guidelines related to Covid-19, trick-or-treating is considered a high risk activity because of the large groups and potential for face-to-face and high-touch actions most often associated with Halloween (like groups of children grabbing candy).

If your family does decide to trick-or-treat in a traditional manner this year, you'll want to consider doing some things differently.

Following are a few safety tips taken from various online health and medical resources which will help ensure a safe Halloween experience for the children and residents of Lackawanna:

- WEAR A MASK (not just the costume kind) – most costume masks alone aren't effective at stopping the spread of germs.

Make sure all trick-or-treaters wear a protective face mask, and check that they can breathe comfortably if they are also going to use a costume mask. A better way to go is to use a Halloween-themed protective face mask!

- **LIMIT GROUP SIZE** – keep trick-or-treating groups to just siblings or a close friend or two.
- **LIMIT THE NUMBER OF HOUSES VISITED** – minimize unnecessary exposure to others by visiting just a small number of homes in your neighborhood or the homes of a few friends you know well.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCE** – keep a safe distance between any trick-or-treaters outside of your group.
- **MINIMIZE CONTACT** – those distributing candy should wear masks and gloves when greeting/handing out candy to trick-or-treaters.

If possible, greet trick-or-treaters on your porch or in your driveway to minimize touching of hard surfaces like door knobs, door bells, etc. And instead of having trick-or-treaters reach into a communal candy bowl, it's advisable to hand out items to each individual visitor.

- **CARRY AND USE HAND SANITIZER** – trick-or-treaters and parents/chaperones should use hand sanitizer in between homes to further reduce risk.
- **STAY HOME IF YOU AREN'T FEELING WELL** – while it would be disappointing to miss Halloween activities, trick-or-treaters and/or parents/chaperones who show any signs of illness such as a cough, fever, etc. should stay home. Better to be safe than sorry.

In addition, please be respectful of our neighbors who may choose not to participate in Halloween activities – the most common sign of this is when a homeowner has their house lights off.

Our plan to conduct Halloween in Lackawanna on October 31 IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE based on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic in Erie County as this date draws near and receipt of any subsequent guidance/rulings from our state and county health departments. Should this occur, we will post updates to the City Facebook page and web site as soon as possible.

For those interested, the CDC has additional information on Halloween 2020 guidelines posted at <https://www.cdc.gov/.../2019.../daily-life-coping/holidays.html...>